

Welcome to our new brochure for 2024 and beyond. It is now almost four years since the Covid Pandemic closed down our lives and people have decided that it's about time to travel again. Almost everywhere is as busy as it was prepandemic!

We had a limited programme in 2023 but have expanded upon it for 2024 and into 2025. We think we have something for almost everyone; from river cruises to city breaks, from the islands of Croatia and Greece to the mountains of Austria and Slovenia, from the stunning beauty of Norway to the paddy fields of Vietnam. Then there's the Cherry Blossom and the Snow Monkeys of Japan. Yes, Japan is back on our programme for Spring 2025 and our registration list is already quite long!

If you would like to join us, please get in touch as soon as you can. We can only take 24 people.





As always, our tours are covered under ATOL and include so many things; flights, transportation, accommodation and usually a range of excursions and gratuities. We can only put so much into this brochure, so the best place to get details on costs, flight schedules, what's included and what there is to see and do, can be found on our website. It's also the best place to see what's new, so please check it out. Don't forget! All our holidays are based on schedule airline fares and can increase anytime without notice. So, the earlier you book, the better!

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# HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR



As in recent years, instead of sending Christmas Cards to our friends and customers, we will be making a donation to the RNLI, whose work to save lives at sea continues, even on Christmas Day. We would like to wish every single one of you, our friends, a very Happy Christmas and a New Year, filled with your hopes, dreams and good health.



## POSITIVELY PORTO 4 Night Break flying from Belfast

#### 21 - 25 FEBRUARY 2024

One of the oldest cities in Europe, Porto enjoys an enviable position, cut from the deep Douro Valley, not far from the coast. Its city centre has been justly proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Since being discovered by tourism, it is a city packed to capacity in the

summer months...but it's at its best in the off-season, when the crowds have gone and when visiting cafes, restaurants, churches, museums and all sorts of other sites is a delight.

We have a host of excursions planned for you, along with a few optional trips or tours. Our home for the stay is the beautiful 4\* Caleway Hotel on the south bank, just a few metres from the river. Let us show you the beautiful region of northern Portugal during our four-day trip.





# 4\* Caleway Hotel - Half- Board<sup>1</sup> Fares from £685 pps £860 single rate

#### **Flight Details**

21Feb24 Belfast – Porto Dep. 13.00 Arr. 15.30 25Feb24 Porto – Belfast Dep. 13.00 Arr. 15.30

Baggage Allowance per person 10kg carry-on PLUS one small cabin bag to fit under seat. (Max 40 x 25 x 20cm)



#### **Optional Extras**

Increase to 20kg checked bag
Choose your seat
Extra legroom seats
(These must all be requested at time of booking. We may not be able to offer them later.

Fare includes 4 breakfasts and 3 evening meals.
 Just 4 Rooms remaining at time of going to press

#### LEGENDARY WINTER IN THE MED ABOARD 5\* WINDSTAR LEGEND **03 March 2024 - 7 Nights**



While the allure of summer in the Mediterranean is undeniable, the quieter, more intimate charm of the upcoming winter months beckons. Windstar Cruises offers you the opportunity to discover iconic ports like Barcelona, Nice, Livorno (Florence/Pisa), and Civitavecchia (Rome) in an entirely different light onboard the all-suite Star Legend. Our overnight stays in Barcelona, Rome, and Nice allow you to enjoy the cultural treasures, gourmet delights, and captivating history with an intimate ambiance that's simply unparalleled. Visit museums and famous landmarks without the summer crowds and find more available seating at restaurants and tapas bars. Witness breathtaking seasonal light shows like the one on the exterior of Sagrada Familia or on the Ponte Vecchio bridge in Florence, see Rome at its best at St. Peter's Square, the Colosseum and Spanish Steps, and breathe in the enchanting fragrance of roasting chestnuts on the vibrant streets of Barcelona. With Windstar Cruises, we are redefining the concept of winter travel in Europe, making it a season of discovery and enchantment that is 180 degrees from ordinary. Join us on this exceptional journey to experience the Mediterranean's winter wonders, It's time to embark on a voyage like no other, where the magic of the Mediterranean comes alive in its more intimate splendour.



£1595 based on twin/double sharing £2337 based on single occupancy

All accommodations are Suites and will be allocated on a first come basis. Earliest bookers get the best suites available.

This holiday has been extremely popular and at time of going to press, we have already 17

booked on it. Why not join us for a bit of winter sunshine and fun in the Mediterranean.

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## MAGICAL MARRAKECH

Pink palaces perched on the edge of the Sahara Desert are framed by the snow-capped Atlas Mountains in the hinterland. Magic and noisy gossip fills the air; hawkers and snake-charmers ply their trades in this cornucopia, created hundreds of years ago as a trading post for nomads. Today, it is a bustling, energetic, vibrant city, full of intrigue and passion.

We will be staying at the excellent Iberostar Club Palmeraie. Mediterranean gardens stretch across six hectares, boasting three pools, one of which is for "adults only" and one dedicated to the children. The hotel boasts a number of bars, a fitness centre and spa, shops and two restaurants, one featuring an international buffet and the other offering up Moroccan cuisine....and there's a snack bar if you're hungry! Oh! By the way, it's "all-inclusive", so you need very little spending money!

Dates, flights, luggage allowance and fares

Date: 21-28 March 2024, 7 nights

(No overnight in Dublin required this year!)

Hotel: 4\* Superior Iberostar Club Palmeraie

Flights: Ryanair from Dublin.

Dep. Dublin 5.15pm Arr. Marrakech 10.20pm. Dep. Marrakech 2.05pm Arr. Dublin 4.50pm.

#### Luggage allowance:

One checked piece weighing up to 20kgs One small piece of hand luggage to fit under seat.



Standard Double Room £1295pp (Singles £1595)

## BEAUTIFUL BUDAPEST

## 15 APRIL 2024 - 3 Nights....flying from Belfast 4\* Oktagon Hotel - Half- Board Fares from £555 pps - £685 single rate



We have often compared Budapest with London, Paris and Vienna: A gorgeous, Habsburg city, which festered behind an iron curtain for 45 years, with many of the grand old buildings falling into serious disrepair. After "the wall" came down in Berlin, many cities in Eastern Europe

began to re-emerge but it took another decade before Budapest started to shine again.

Today you will find a city completely rejuvenated, yet with traces of the Second World War

and the atrocities of the Stalinist regime. You can learn of the persecution of its Jewish and ethnic communities and at the same time marvel at stunning architecture.

One such building is the so-called Haggenmacher Palace, built between 1884 and 1886 in neo-Renaissance style on Andrássy Avenue. It was designed by Henrik Schmahl, who also designed the Paris Court in Budapest. After many years of unsuitable use followed by more years of quasidereliction, the building was almost completely restored to its former glory and has now opened as a beautiful hotel, right on the main boulevard of Budapest, Andrassy. This is where we stayed in 2023 — the "Hotel Oktogon Haggenmacher" — Superb!



We expect that not only will this holiday be popular but that Ryanair will increase the flight costs. So, early booking is absolutely imperative. We will be putting together a number of optional tours and excursions, such as a visit to the Hungarian Parliament, the Museum of Horror, the Opera and/or concerts in St. Stephens Cathedral. Bring your swimsuit and enjoy a time at the amazing and beautiful Szechenyi Baths or the Gellert Hotel Baths.

#### Flight Details - Flying from Belfast

16Apr24 Belfast – Budapest Dep. 09.00 Arr. 12.55

18Apr24 Budapest – Belfast Dep. 06.00 Arr. 08.35

Baggage Allowance - one small piece each to fit under seat. (Max 40 x 25 x 20cm)

Check website for full details regarding extra luggage, seat requests, excursions.

# ATHENS AND THE MYSTERIOUS CYCLADES AND DODECANESE ISLANDS



For years we have wanted to offer this cruise holiday, aboard the 4\* "Belle de l'Adriatique", the ocean-going ship of Croisieurope. Carrying just under 300 passengers, it's more like a private yacht than a "cruise ship"; no crowds, no queues, no long corridors but, if you are looking for a feast of entertainment, then it's maybe not for you, as there's no casino, no theatre and no heated indoor pool. Instead, you'll find a welcoming crew, who get to know you from day-one, great food which is a trademark of Croisieurope, local entertainers who come aboard at some of the ports and access to some of islands the big ships can't even get near to.

Sailing from Athens we travel to Syros and Amorgos before reaching Rhodes. Cruise onwards to Santorini and Milos, returning to Athens after seven nights of great fun amongst friends, new and old. As always, we already have quite a few booked on this cruise...but we still have space for you to join us. There are still four cabins up for grabs! If you wish to extend your tour, we are offering a two-night stay in downtown Athens before returning to Dublin.



£2385 p.p. sharing.

Single fare £2875

Based on cabins on Lower Deck See Website for other cabins and also for details of the two night extension in Athens.

08 May 2024 – 7 Nights All-Inclusive

## **Norwegian Highlights by Rail**

21 May 2024 - 9 Nights

Norway is the place to be in 2024! For many, Norway has been on the "to do" list, but all of a sudden, everyone wants to go there. Oslo has opened fascinating new museums; Trondheim is going to host one of Europe's top culinary competitions, the Bocuse D'Or; Bodo is sprucing itself up to be European Capital of Culture. Not in the last 30 years has UK Sterling been stronger against the Norwegian Krone than now.

We have pieced together an exciting itinerary, making use of Norway's excellent public transport. Starting with two nights in the capital, enough time to visit a number of the sights and enjoy this lovely city, we will continue on by rail through the hills and forests to the southern cities of Kristiansand and Stavanger. Then it's Fjord time! We travel by day-time ferry from here to Bergen, one of Norway's top cities for tourism. We have a couple of days to relax or to experience all that this beautiful city, with its brightly hued houses, has to offer. From Bergen we take a short flight up to Trondheim and then The Nordland Railway carries us 729km over 293 bridges and through 154 tunnels, traversing the Arctic Circle to lovely Bodo. Even in the summer it can snow here, with the city experiencing an average of 8 months per year of the white stuff!



Accommodation is in 3\* Superior and 4\* hotels throughout, with breakfast included each morning and six evening meals. Travel is by air, train and ferry, with comfortable reclining seats on the ferry and up-scale seats on the fascinating Nordland from which to enjoy the everchanging scenery. You'll leave lush fields and forest before the scenery changes to barren tundra. We have a host of excursions lined up for you; places to visit, things to see; experiences not to be forgotten.

Spaces on this tour are limited and we only have four rooms remaining from our allocation, so if you wish to join us, please get in touch quickly....and before the fares increase.

Full details of the holiday are on our Website

Fares:

£2195 p.p. based on twin/double sharing - £2560 single room

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## **VIENNA & ZELL AM SEE, AUSTRIA**

17 June - 29 June 2023 - 12 Nights

£1995 pp sharing double or twin (No singles left!)

Year in, year out, this is our most popular holiday. We have been booked out for months but now, due to two cancellations and a couple of extra rooms becoming available, it is now open again to bookings, but you'll probably have to be quick. We are really sorry but we simply cannot take any more bookings for singles, as we have already exceeded our allocation.



We return to the beautiful "Romantikhotel, Zell am See", our favourite quirky, 4\* hotel built and beautifully maintained over four generations in a typical Tyrolean style. A hearty breakfast is followed by a superb dinner each evening. The hotel boasts a small indoor-outdoor pool, with plenty of sun-loungers. An extensive spa and solarium offer relaxation and a friendly, comfortable bar invites you for congenial fun. Is it any wonder we are returning for the

tenth time! Before we get there, though, we have a couple of nights and a full day in Austria's historica capital, Vienna, in the ultra-modern Mooons Hotel....no that's not a mistake....there are 3 "o"s in Mooons! Our cases will be taken care of as we enjoy a leisurely train journey right across Austria, from the flat-lands of Vienna to the mountainous terrain of Salzburgerland.

As always, we have a stack of excursions lined up for you, most of which are FREE and all of which you can opt to join or simply just stay at the hotel and relax in the beautiful and tranquil surroundings.

# Transport to Vienna, back from Munich

17 June Dublin – Vienna evening flight Dep. 6.25pm Arr. 10.15pm 19 June Vienna – Zell, Morning train 29 June Munich – Dublin Midday flight Dep. 11.25am Arr. 1.25pm



#### **DUBROVNIK, CROATIAN ISLANDS & MONTENEGRO**

18 July 2024 - 8 days / 7 Nights

Cost: £2235 per person sharing. Single fare £2835

4\* Superior "Belle de l'Adriatique"



It's only once every few years that we are able to get space on this amazing cruise. Yes, teher are any number of cruise ships plying the Med and the Islands of Croatia but there are very few that can get into the small, unspoilt islands, as well as the more popular ports. Almost always, the "Belle de l'Adriatique" can sail straight into the port and it is a rare occasion that anyone needs to board a tender.

This ship is more like a private yacht! It's not 5\*; it could probably be rated as 4\*. That has never put our customers of, though, as we have many who return every time we get some space.

Our cruise starts in Dubrovnik, where we have the opportunity to join a carefree excursion to some of the local islands, where we can swim, have a picnic and enjoy a few glasses of wine or beer. As you can see from the chart here, we have a number of great ports of call, where you can join excursions or simply do your own thing and enjoy the local vibe.





Our

holiday, as an extra, includes one overnight on a room-only basis at the Premier Inn at Dublin Airport. After that, almost everything is included. Have a look at the Website to get all the information.

18 July Dep. Dublin 07.35am Arr. Dubrovnik 12.00 noon 25 July Dep. Dubrovnik 12.50pm Arr. Dublin 2.35pm

Fares: **£2285** based on sharing Lower Deck twin/double Please check website for upgrades.

Sorry, but we have no single cabins left.



## **MAYRHOFEN, AUSTRIA**

#### 11 August 2024 - 10 Days - 9 Nights

This has become one of our most sought-after and best-liked holidays, as there is such a host of things to do. Mayrhofen itself is a mecca for shoppers and has a host of restaurants, cafes and bars. Every evening there is live entertainment somewhere in the town or region and during the day we have a great selection of excursions. Guests to the beautiful Zillertal Valley have a nigh endless choice of sporting activities yet it is also ideal for those of a less athletic disposition and is perfect for relaxation. Your ActivCard will enable you to travel on all the local railways, bus routes and cable-cars. Enjoy a ride on the Zillertalbahn to the lovely town of Zell am Ziller; travel on to Schutters or even Jenbach; or take the local bus up to Gerlos, high in the mountains. Relax in one of six wonderful swimming facilities and receive discounts off sauna and treatments. Check out local cafes and restaurants to see how their Apfelstrudel compares. Spend time with new-found friends over a hot chocolate or a glass of Austrian wine or beer. Mayrhofen is just over an hour away from the wonderful city of Innsbruck, also the spectacular Krimml Waterfalls, the highest in Europe, so there is no excuse for not enjoying yourself.

The hotel offers an indoor heated pool, expansive gardens with lots of chairs and loungers, a friendly bar and a restaurant, where you'll receive the most wonderful breakfasts and dinners.



£1685 per person sharing

Flights with Aer Lingus 11 Aug Dep. Dublin 4.25pm Arr. Munich 7.50pm 20 Aug Dep. Munich 11.25am Arr. Dublin 1.05pm

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## **SLOVENIA, LAKE BLED & PORTOROZ**

14 Sept 2024 - 10 Nights



3\* Sup. Astoria Hotel, Bled 4\* Lifeclass Hotel, Portoroz £1485 per person sharing -Single supp £295

We have to ask ourselves why we haven't been back to Slovenia for a few years now! It really is such a wonderful country and such great value. The Alps, which stretch from southern France, find their eastern end in Slovenia, providing a stunning backdrop[ to its capital city, Ljubljana and to the beautiful resorts of Lake Bled and Lake Bohinj.

Our tour brings us for four nights to one of Europe's prettiest lakes, Bled, surrounded by the mountains and adorned with castles and majestic churches and monasteries. The Astoria Hotel has been recently refurbished and updated, providing a welcoming home with good food, just located a few minutes from the Lake. We spend the next six nights of our holiday and the

resort town of Portoroz, a popular destination from, the days of the former Yugoslavia. The Life-Class hotels offer simple but very comfortable accommodation, an excellent spa and just a few steps from the promenade and "beach".

As usual, we have a great selection of excursions planned for you, such as a half day in beautiful Ljubljana, mountain and lakeshore walks and hikes, a visit to the world-famous Postojna Caves, tours to some of the local towns and villages and



an

optional tour to the historic city of Trieste.



#### Flights:

14 Sept. Depart Dublin 3.30pm Arrive Trieste 7.10pm 24 Sept. Depart Trieste 1.50pm Arrive Dublin 3.40pm

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#### **CAPTIVATING COPENHAGEN**

### 03-06 Oct 2024 - 3 Nights 4\* Copenhagen Island Hotel

The buzzing capital of Denmark mixes modern architecture with ancient castles and palaces, stunning waterways with broad boulevards, trendy restaurants with cosy cafes. There is a host of things to do and see; Tivoli Gardens, the Little Mermaid, Nyhavn (The New Harbour), Christianborg (the Danish Parliament) and Amelienborg Royal Palace., just to name a few!

You'll find a city hell-bent on being carbon neutral by 2025. You'll see little or no litter, recycling on a grand scale and almost no use of "one-shot" plastics. Green spaces abound, the locals cycle everywhere, electric transportation and the air is beautifully clean, all year round.

Why would you not want to visit!

Our three-day trip allows us to see and explore as many of the sights as possible, staying at the brand new Copenhagen Island Hotel. This 4\* hotel sits right on the water's edge, not far from many of Copenhagen's attractions and close to rail, bus and tram stops. To make getting around easy, we have included a three-day travel card, valid from the moment we arrive until we depart. We travel between the airport and the hotel by the very frequent and fast metro link.

Two evening meals, allowing you the opportunity to sample something different on your own. You can, of course, join your escort, Alan, but that evening, it will be at your own expense. We will be arranging a few optional excursions, details of which will be available soon.



Flight Details (Provisional) – SAS and Norwegian

03Oct24 Dublin-Copenhagen Dep. 12.40 Arr. 15.55 06Oct24 Copenhagen-Dublin Dep. 18.30 Arr. 19.50 Baggage Allowance per person 8kgs carry-on PLUS 20kgs checked piece of luggage

Fares from £785 pps £975 single rate

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## **RIVER OF GOLD**

#### **DOURO RIVER CRUISE**

Sailing from Porto to Spanish border

### "4\* Premium" AMALIA RODRIGUES – CRIOSIEUROPE 14 – 22 October 2024 – 9 Days / 8 Nights

This must rank as one of the very best river journeys in Europe, possibly even the world. On the Douro, once you sail out of Porto, one of the most stunning cities in Europe, you'll find yourself draped in lush green terraces, adorned with fairytale red-roofed villas and estates. Fast water flows around you as you sail through the tight gorges, where steep cliffs hide the river from everyone except you. Excursions bring you to exciting places; a visit to Vila Real, former home of the founder of Mateus Rosé; a day-trip to the ancient university city of Salamanca in Spain; a visit to historical city of Guimaraes; or simply a stroll around the pretty town of Pinhao, with its famous railway station, bedecked with Azulejos (painted blue tiles), depicting scenes of wine production from planting through to harvest and delivery.

For lovers of all things tasty, we offer a pre-cruise excursion, a visit to the cellars of Taylor Port with tastings (a must-do tour) and a great lunch with selection of wines at the winery, whilst enjoying spectacular views over the river. Past guests have rated this as one of the best "excursions" they have ever done, anywhere!

We only have ten cabins on this cruise, as it is so difficult to get a large allocation. Most of them are already gone but we still have some space. So, if you want to enjoy one of the nicest river cruises in Europe, please book as soon as you can.

At time of press, we still do not have the flight details but hope to have them soon.

£2285 pp sharing twin/double on lower deck

£2735 single occupancy. Just two singles remaining.

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## VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

November 2024 - 14 or 17 Days



#### And then along came Covid!

In 2022, we had planned to visit Vietnam and Cambodia and then we had to shelve our plans. We are, however, in the process of reviving them and would plan to offer a trip to these stunning countries in late autumn 2024.

The itinerary would take in all the "H's", Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City and will include travel by coach, train and various boats. There's even a cycling opportunity for those who wish. A three-night extension into Cambodia is also in the plans.

We are aiming a guide price of around £3,300 although we are still calculating it. There will, of course, be upgrades available to Premium Economy (if available) and Business Class.

If you would be interested in joining us, without commitment, please get in touch.

We hope to have final details by the end of December 2023.

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# **BEGUILING BERLIN**

# 09 DECEMBER 2024 - 4 Nights....from Dublin 4\* Hotel Berlin Berlin BEGUILING BERLIN

It's been a while! Yes, Berlin is eventually back into our programme after what seems like an eternity...well, it was before Covid!

One of the world's greatest capital cities, with an intriguing history to match its fascinating future. Berlin has a wealth of historical buildings, many of which have been restored after the Second WW or completely rebuilt to look the same what stood there before.

We are staying for 4 nights in a citycentre four-star hotel, "Berlin-Berlin", which has just been refurbished. Close to the shops of the west-end on

Kurfurstenstrasse and the "Ku-Damm", this was the heart of former "West Berlin".

The famous sights of East Berlin are not too far away, either. You could, if you wished, walk to the Brandenburg Gate in 30-40 minutes...but the U-Bahn is quicker! Pariser Platz and the embassies, Unter den Linden, Museum Island, Berlin Cathedral, the Reichstag Building are all easily reached. We'll take you to Checkpoint Charlie and you can visit the "Wall" Museum, take a stroll along some of the former wall site, visit the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. Yes, and there will be time for shopping in some of Europe's best stores.,,,if that's your wish.



Don't forget, it's Christmas Market time, and we'll be taking you to some you might never venture to on your own.

Berlin is a city that has probably seen more changes in the last 100 years than any other in Europe. It's still changing, moving with the times, and it is always worth a visit.

### Fares from £775 pps £935 single rate

Call us now or send us an email 07808 366930 alan@acetours.eu

# POLAR EXPLORER

Jan/Feb 2025 - 7 Nights



Plans are at a very early stage but we hope to offer a 7 or 8 night trip by train. We plan to start in Stockholm with two nights stay, followed by a train journey right up the backbone of Sweden to Kiruna and on to Narvik in Norway.

From Narvik, we'll fly to Bodo from where we will take the Nordland Express train to Trondheim and then on to Oslo.

You can expect to see stunning scenery, from the flatlands of Stockholm, through the mountains of Sweden and Norway, from dark, mysterious forests to wide fields of tundra, from green pastures to pure white snow....and, if we're lucky, the Northern Lights!

Once again, if you might be interested in joining us, without commitment, please get in touch.

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## Japan - The Cherry Blossom Trail

There is simply nowhere on earth that compares with Japan for its Cherry Blossom. For hundreds of years and with heaps of pride and affection, the Japanese have nurtured hundreds of thousands of these gorgeous trees, whose fleeting show of beauty lasts but a few weeks. We also plan to drop in on the famous "Snow Monkeys". It is without doubt the most popular time of the year to visit this amazing country, meaning that flight seats and hotel beds

disappear like melting snow.....quickly. It is, unfortunately, also the most expensive time to visit and airfares to Japan have never been higher. Yet, we plan to keep the cost of the tour to a minimum, at the same time offering a selection of first-class accommodation, top class travel and experience not to be forgotten.

For that reason, we are now planning for Spring 2025, ready to pounce when those commodities go on sale, probably early in 2024. We have created our proposed itinerary, which gives us a great chance to experience this spectacle, also an opportunity to enjoy the wonders of one of our favourite countries – Japan!

Are you interested in joining us? All we need is an expression of your interest. There's no commitment! Check out our website for details of the proposed itinerary.



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